

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2023

Mr. Charles F. Sams III, Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams III:

It has come to our attention that the Little White Schoolhouse in Ripon, Wisconsin, rightfully recognized globally as "The Birthplace of the Republican Party", has been taken off the National Park Service's (NPS) National Register of Historic Places (Registry) and its National Historic Landmark designation is currently under review.

We are told the reason for its removal from the Registry is due to a decision by the city owner of the schoolhouse to physically move the schoolhouse to a new location only one mile northwest and on the same road as the current site. This news has understandably led to both a sense of confusion and outrage amongst many of our constituents, and we ask for your assistance in order to remedy the situation.

The Wisconsin State Historical Society has previously approved of the new site location, and we hope the NPS follows its lead. Because the schoolhouse building has been physically moved multiple times in the past, albeit not in recent decades, it is our belief that its federal recognition and status should not be altered. The historical integrity of the previous location faced adverse effects due to new contemporary commercial construction projects. As stated in the denial, a high level of integrity is a fundamental requirement for National Historic Places, which the Little White Schoolhouse's Board of Directors appreciates and deeply considered when planning this move. For this reason, the new location enhances its pre-existing historical value through its placement on a larger parcel of land, removing susceptibility of future construction projects and offering greater opportunities for outdoor education.

In the original 1973 Registry registration form, the qualifications outlined were based solely on the appearance of the building's structure. The surrounding landscape was never considered, and we feel this should remain consistent with the current application process. Therefore, we respectfully request your department approve of the chamber's impending re-application for the new Little White Schoolhouse site to once again be included on the Registry and permanently retain their National Historic Landmark designation.

Now, it is imperative the National Park Service act swiftly and without reservation and approve the chamber's request to re-list what has long been a very important, sacrosanct location in the history of our Grand Old Party. This small structure represents something profound and momentous, and thus it deserves these historic federal designations, now and forever.

Thank you for your immediate attention to our request. If our offices can be of any assistance to you as you seek a prompt resolution to this matter, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,



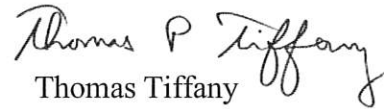
Ron Johnson
US Senator



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Thomas Tiffany
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Derek Van Orden
Member of Congress

CC: Sherry Frear, Chief, National Register & National Historic Landmarks Program